

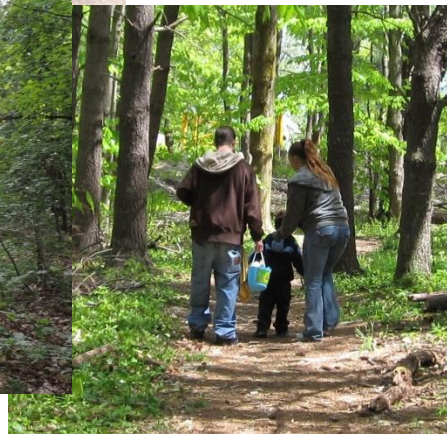
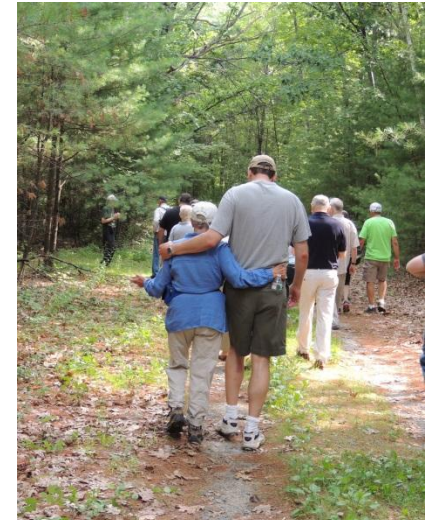


Connecting Communities – Along Our Trails

2014 Massachusetts Trails Conference

Sheri Bean

*Montachusett Regional Planning
Commission & Montachusett
Regional Trails Coalition*





Connecting Communities – Along Our Trails

Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition (MRTC)

- Established in March 2012
- 80+ groups/individuals involved
- Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) - Survey
- Trail Inventory (2005-2011) & Update (2013)
- Trail Guide
- Outreach
- Like us on Facebook!  (www.facebook.com/MontachusettTrails)
- Freedom's Way partnership - 2014



Connecting Communities – Along Our Trails

RTP Community Survey - 2006

Is your community interested in trail development?

96% Yes 0% No 4% Unsure

Which of the following would encourage trail use within your community?

78% More trail connections

78% More information regarding recreational trail use

41% More information regarding bicycle/pedestrian commuting and travel

30% Other (additional trail funding, trail maps, trail connections to other states/regions, better trail locations, promoting walking/hiking clubs)



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MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Trail Inventory Update

2013



For the Montachusett Region

September 2013





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WEST

The MRPC encourages appropriate use of all the trails within our region. All users have a personal responsibility to make sure that the trails they want to enjoy are designated for that use. Please check with individual land owners to determine allowed uses if not clearly posted.

For more information and local community maps please visit mrpc.org or mrmapper.mrpc.org



MrMapper

Like us on Facebook to stay up to date about upcoming events!
facebook.com/MontachusettTrails

Designed by Taylor Duffy in collaboration with Lindsey Gonzalez.

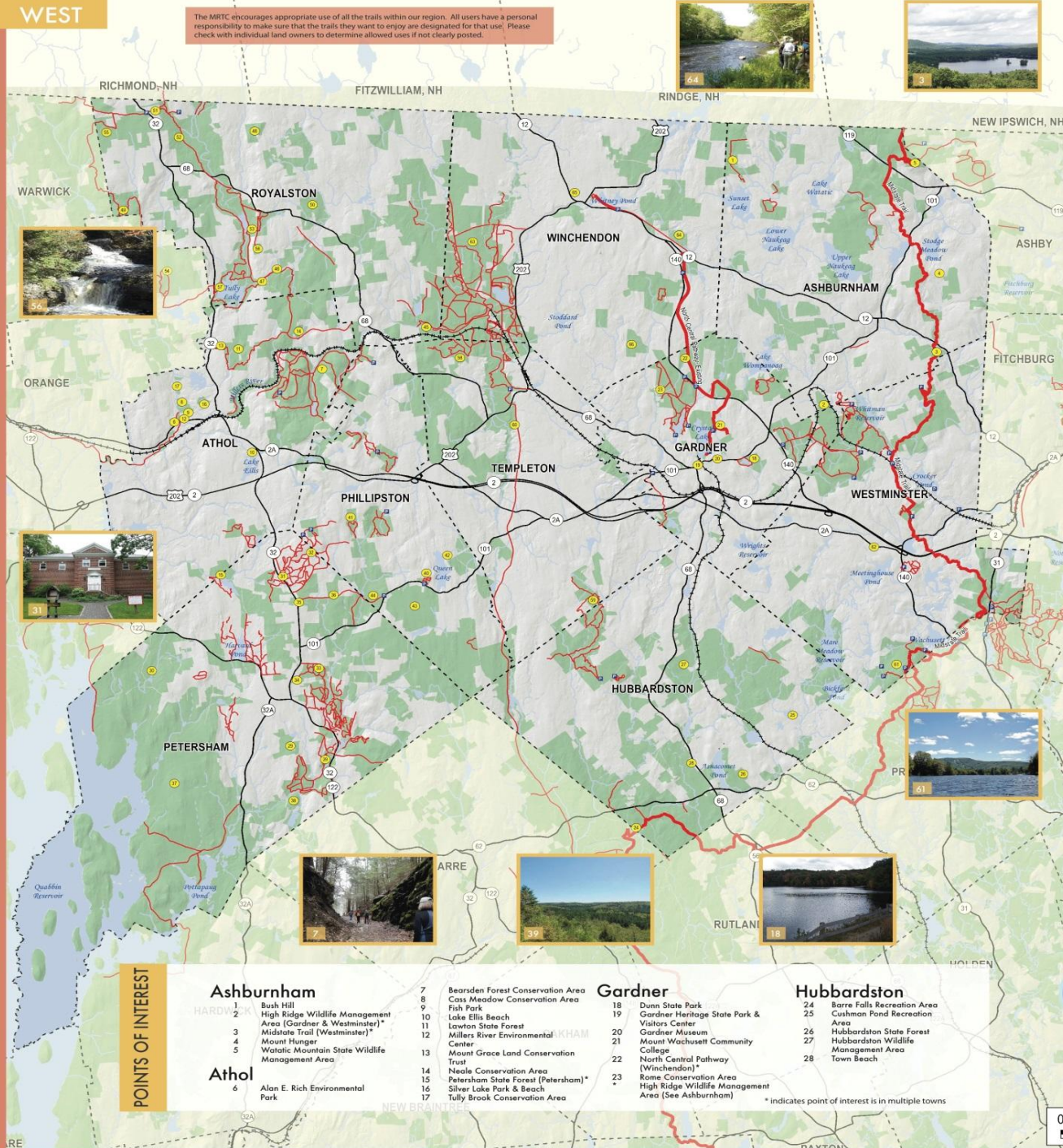
MassDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
MassDOT is a proud member of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The views and opinions of the Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Transportation are not necessarily those of the U.S. Department of Transportation.



Montachusett Region Trail Guide



Printed in 2014



POINTS OF INTEREST

Petersham

- 29 Babbitt Wildlife Management Area
- 30 Federated Women's Club
- 31 Fisher Museum
- 32 Harvard Forest (Phillipston)*
- 33 James W Brooks Woodland Preserve
- 34 North Common Meadow
- 35 Petersham Curling Club
- 36 Petersham Town Forest
- 37 Quabbin Reservoir State Reservation
- 38 Raccoon Hill Wildlife Management Area
- 39 Swift River Reservation

Phillipston

- 40 Elliott Laurel Reservation
- 41 Fox Valley Wildlife Sanctuary
- 42 Goulding Village Mill Site
- 43 Harvard Forest (See Petersham)
- 43 Phillipston State Wildlife Management Area
- 44 Popple Camp State Wildlife Management Area

Royalston

- 45 Birch Hill Dam
- 46 Codding's Meadow
- 47 Doane's Fall Reservation
- 48 Ehrich Forest
- 49 Fish Brook Wildlife Management Area
- 50 Lawrence Brook Wildlife Management Area
- 51 Royalton Falls Reservation
- 52 Royalton State Forest
- 53 Tall Timbers Forest
- 54 Tully Mountain Wildlife Management Area
- 55 Warwick State Forest
- 56 Jacobs Hill Reservation & The Ledges
- 57 Tully Lake Recreation Area & Dam

Templeton

- 58 Otter River State Forest
- 59 Templeton State Forest
- 60 Ware River Rail Trail

Westminster

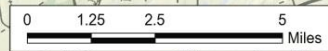
- 61 High Ridge Wildlife Management Area (See Ashburnham)
- 61 Leominster State Forest (See Fitchburg)
- 61 Midstate Trail (See Ashburnham)
- 61 Mount Wachusett State Reservation
- 62 Town Common

Winchendon

- 63 Birch Hill State Wildlife Management Area
- 64 Millers River State Wildlife Management Area
- 65 Town Forest
- 66 Winchendon State Forest
- * North Central Pathway (See Gardner)

LEGEND

- Point of Interest ●
- Major Trail —
- Trail —
- Railway +++
- Town Boundary ---
- Major Highway —
- Open Space ■



POINTS OF INTEREST

Ashburnham

- 1 Bush Hill
- 2 High Ridge Wildlife Management Area (Gardner & Westminster)*
- 3 Midstate Trail (Westminster)
- 4 Mount Hunger
- 5 Watatic Mountain State Wildlife Management Area

Athol

- 6 Alan E. Rich Environmental Park

Gardner

- 7 Bearskin Forest Conservation Area
- 8 Cass Meadow Conservation Area
- 9 Fish Park
- 10 Lake Ellis Beach
- 11 Lawton State Forest
- 12 Millers River Environmental Center
- 13 Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust
- 14 Neale Conservation Area
- 15 Petersham State Forest (Petersham)*
- 16 Silver Lake Park & Beach
- 17 Tully Brook Conservation Area
- 18 Dunn State Park
- 19 Gardner Heritage State Park & Visitors Center
- 20 Gardner Museum
- 21 Mount Wachusett Community College
- 22 North Central Pathway (Winchendon)*
- 23 Rome Conservation Area
- 24 High Ridge Wildlife Management Area (See Ashburnham)

Hubbardston

- 24 Barre Falls Recreation Area
- 25 Cushman Pond Recreation Area
- 26 Hubbardston State Forest
- 27 Hubbardston Wildlife Management Area
- 28 Town Beach

* indicates point of interest is in multiple towns



Connecting Communities – Along Our Trails

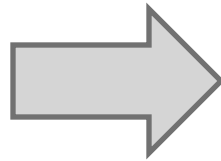
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Connecting Communities – Along Our Trails

MRTC is working to
raise the public's
awareness of and
appreciation for
sustainable,
accessible, high
quality recreational
trails



- Trail Events



Connecting Communities – Along Our Trails

Connecting Communities is offered by the Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition and Freedom's Way National Heritage Area, in collaboration with trail stewards, land trust, community leaders, and provides free trail-inspired events from June 2014 – May 2015



Connecting Communities – Along Our Trails

2014 Events

June – Lancaster (Cook Conservation Trail)

July- Devens (Oxbow NWR & Trolley Tour)

August- Fitchburg (Coggshall Park/Fun in FITchburg)

September- Shirley (Benton MacKaye walk)

October- Leominster (Sholan Farms)

November- Nashua, NH (Downtown River walk)

December- Sterling (Waushacum Overlook)



Connecting Communities

Along Our Trails 2014

IN NASHUA – NOVEMBER 29



Turtle Island by Tom Huff, Seneca Indian from Upstate NY, located on Main Street at Bicentennial Park.

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 29
4:00-5:00 PM
RAIN OR SHINE**



Mirage of the Horse by Amgalan Tsevegmid of Mongolia, located on the Riverwalk by Cotton Mill Square. Photo by Suzanna Morse.

DOWNTOWN RIVERWALK

The Riverwalk tour will start on the west side of the Main Street Bridge in Downtown Nashua, traverse the south bank of the river going west, over the Cotton Transfer Bridge, and then back to Main Street along the north bank. Walk along Le Parc de Notre Renaissance Francaise, celebrating Nashua's diverse cultural heritage. Learn about the Nashua Manufacturing Company, mostly intact and on the National Register of Historic Places. Did you know that by 1926 Nashua was the largest cotton blanket manufacturer in the world? Enjoy river views on the restored Cotton Transfer Bridge, built in 1910 to move cotton from the Cotton Storage Building to the mills. Learn about Nashua's most recent riverfront development, Cotton Mill Square. See and touch Diversity and Mirage of the Horse, two of Nashua's twenty sculptures from the annual Nashua International Sculpture Symposium.

The Riverwalk tour will end at 5:00 p.m. at Main Street just in time for you to enjoy the festivities, including lighting the tree, during Nashua's famous Holiday Stroll. Leashed dogs are welcome.

Organizers/Leaders: Kathy Hersh, President of City Arts Nashua, former Nashua Community Development Director; and Al Futterman, Nashua River Watershed Association Land Programs Director.

Distance, Time and Difficulty: This easy walking tour is just under a mile.

Directions/parking: Check the *Holiday Stroll* web site www.downtownnashua.org/event/holiday-stroll

Main Street and the surrounding roads will begin closing at 3:30pm, but several parking lots around downtown will be open during the Stroll: Elm Street Parking Garage, High Street Parking Garage (accessible from westbound direction and via Factory Street) and Southern NH Medical Center Parking Garage. We encourage you to take advantage of the ample parking and free shuttles available at Rivier University and Holman Stadium. Shuttles run from 4:00-10:30pm.

Connecting Communities is offered by the Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition and Freedom's Way National Heritage Area, in collaboration with trail stewards, land trusts, community leaders, historical organizations, naturalists, and volunteers, and provides free trail-inspired events from June 2014 – May 2015.



Freedom's Way National Heritage Area
works in partnership with
The National Park Service

ALONG OUR TRAILS 2014-2015

DECEMBER 2014 – Sterling, MA

JANUARY 2015 – Ashburnham, MA

FEBRUARY 2015 – Petersham, MA

MARCH 2015 – Westminster, MA

APRIL 2015 – Gardner, MA

MAY 2015 – Groton, MA



Connecting Communities – Along Our Trails

2015 Events

January – Ashburnham (Ashburnham Rail Trail)

February - Petersham

March- Westminster

April- Gardner (North Central Pathway & MWCC)

May- Groton

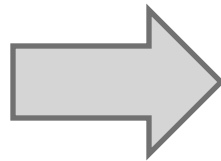
June & July – ???

August - Westford



Connecting Communities – Along Our Trails

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appreciation for
sustainable,
accessible, high
quality recreational
trails



- Trail Events
- Trail Guide

POINTS OF INTEREST

Ashby

- 67 Ashby Wildlife Management Area
- 68 Blood Hill
- 69 Damon Pond
- 70 Trap Falls
- 71 Willard Brook State Forest

Ayer

- 72 Ayer Commuter Rail Station & Nashua River Rail Trailhead
- 73 Pringle Park
- 74 Sandy Pond Beach

Clinton

- 75 Rauscher Farm
- 76 Wachusett Dam
- 77 Wachusett Reservoir

Devens

- 78 Devens Disc Golf
- 79 Devens Museum and Freedom's Way National Heritage Area Office
- 80 Mirror Lake Recreation Area (See Harvard)
- 81 Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center
- United Native American Cultural Center

Fitchburg

- 82 Coggeshall Park & Bird Sanctuary
- 83 Coolidge Park
- 84 Crocker Conservation Area
- 85 Fitchburg Art Museum
- 86 Fitchburg Intermodal Station
- 87 Fitchburg State University
- 88 Flat Rock Wildlife Sanctuary
- 89 Gateway Park
- 90 Riverfront Park
- 91 Steamline Trail
- 92 Wachusett Commuter Rail Station

Groton

- 93 Audubon-Rocky Hills Trail
- 94 Baddacook Pond Boat and Launch
- 95 Barrozi Wildlife Conservation Area
- 96 Fitch's Bridge
- 97 Flavel Crossing Conservation Area
- 98 Gibbet Hill/Scarlet Hill Groton Center
- 99 Groton Town Forest
- 100 J. Harry Rich State Forest
- 101 Lost Lake/Knops Pond Boat Launch
- 102 Pelopawag Canoe Launch
- 103 Sargisson Beach (Town Beach)
- 104 Squannacook River Wildlife Management Area (Shirley)*
- 106 Surrenden Farm
- 107 Throne Hill Conservation Area
- 108 West Groton Center
- 109 Williams Barn Conservation Area

Harvard

- 110 Bolton Flats Wildlife Management Area (Lancaster)*
- 111 Delaney Wildlife Management Area
- 112 Fruitlands Museum
- 113 Holy Hill
- 114 Mirror Lake Recreation Area (Devens)*
- 115 Shaker Village
- 116 Town Beach (Bare Hill Pond)

Lancaster

- 117 Atherton Bridge River and Greenway
- 118 Ballard Hill Conservation Area
- 119 Bartlett Pond Conservation Area
- 120 Bolton Flats Wildlife Management Area (See Harvard)
- 121 Chapman Goodale Conservation Area
- 122 Chickering Conservation Area
- 123 Cook Conservation Area
- 124 Dexter Drumlins
- 125 Lancaster State Forest
- 126 Lancaster Town Forest
- 127 Parker Family Forest
- 128 Thayer Memorial Forest
- 129 Turner Pond Conservation Area

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POINTS OF INTEREST

Leominster

- 130 Barrett Park
- 131 Carter Park
- 132 Doyle Community Park & Center
- 133 Doyle Field
- 134 Johnny Appleseed State Park
- 135 Johnny Ro Veterans Memorial Park
- 136 Leominster State Forest (Sterling)*
- 137 Lincoln Woods Wildlife Sanctuary
- 138 North Leominster Commuter Rail Station
- 139 Prospect Park
- 140 Sholan Farms

Lunenburg

- 141 Cowdrey Nature Center
- 142 Hunting Hills Wildlife Management Area (See Townsend)
- 143 Town Beach
- 144 Town Forest

Shirley

- 145 Benjamin Hill Park & Pool
- 146 Farandnear Conservation Land
- 147 Fredonian Nature Center
- 148 Harriett Lyon Conservation Land
- 149 Longley Acres
- 150 Mulpus Brook Wildlife Management Area
- 151 Rust Nature Conservancy
- 152 Shirley Commuter Rail Station
- 153 Valley Farm Conservation Area
- 154 Squannacook River Wildlife Management Area (See Groton)

Sterling

- 154 Mass Central Rail Trail Spur
- Leominster State Forest (Leominster)

Townsend

- 155 Hunting Hills Wildlife Management Area (Lunenburg)*
- 156 Pearl Hill State Park
- 157 Townsend State Forest

* indicates point of interest is in multiple towns

EAST

Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition

MRTC is a volunteer organization founded by the Nashua River Watershed Association, the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission and the Leominster Trail Stewards.

Mission Statement:

The Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition (MRTC) seeks to enrich the lives and communities within its boundaries by advancing the development of diverse, high quality trails and greenways.



Vision Statement:

MRTC envisions a network of diverse, high quality trails for all people and a trail within 15 minutes of every home, school and workplace within the region.

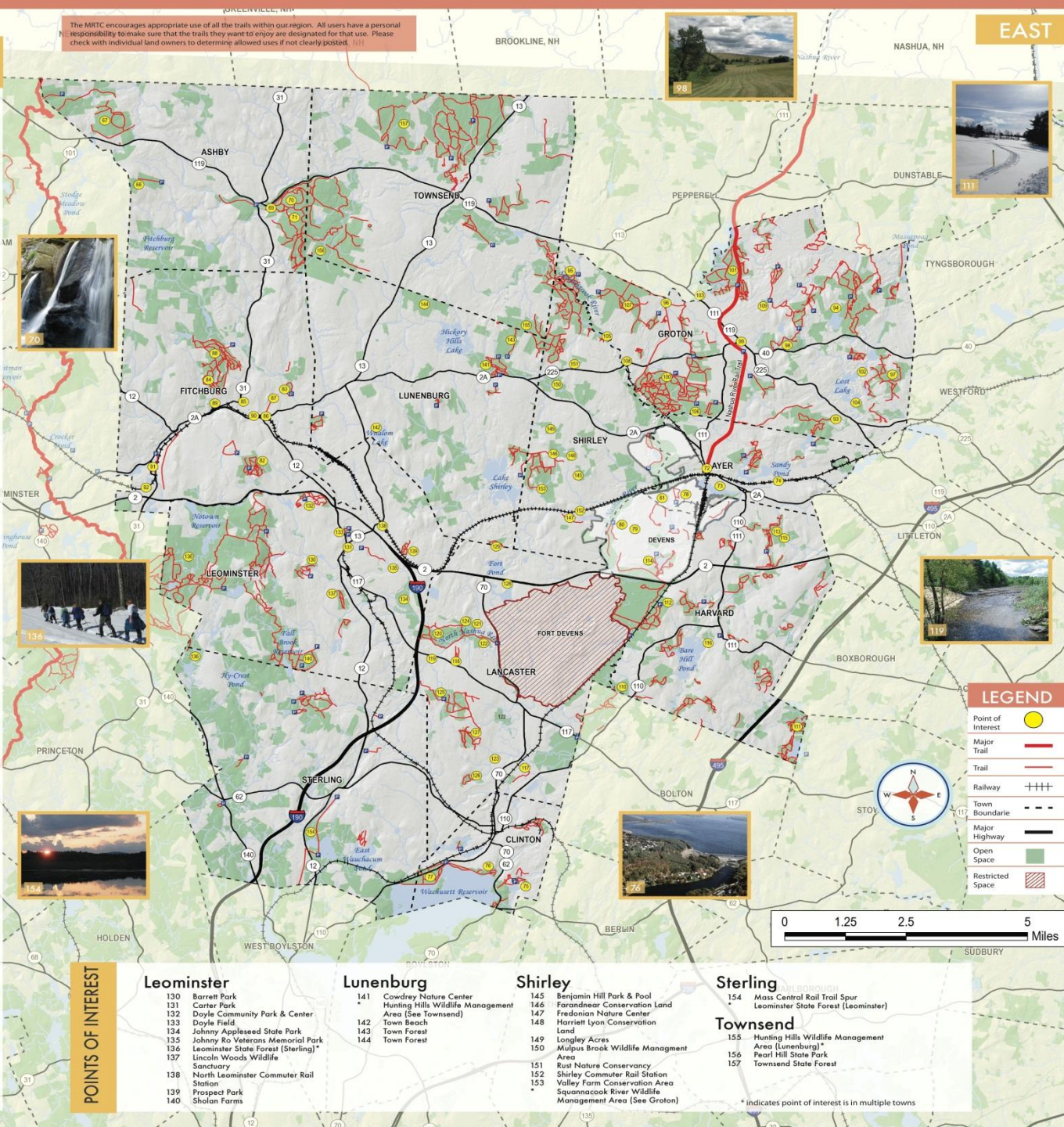
Core Values:

MRTC seeks trails and greenways that promote: accessibility, healthy lifestyles, economic vitality, sustainable development, best practices, experiences in the outdoors, appreciation for the outdoors, learning in the outdoors and connectivity.



We are folks who are passionate about trails and passionate about our communities. We are working to enhance the quality of life for all within our region.

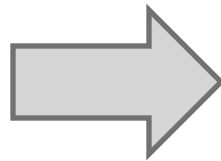
We encourage all of you to enjoy the pleasures our trails offer, to help maintain this important layer of green infrastructure, and to advocate for greater support and funding from our elected officials for local and regional trail projects.





Connecting Communities – Along Our Trails

MRTC is working to raise the public's awareness of and appreciation for sustainable, accessible, high quality recreational trails



- Trail Events
- Trail Guide
- Regional & Community Trail Visions



Groton's Trails Vision, 2014-2019

Prepared by the Groton Trails Vision Committee

Paul Funch, Chairman

Russell Burke

Gineane Haberlin

Nadia Madden

Michael Roberts

Alan Taylor

Edward Wenzell

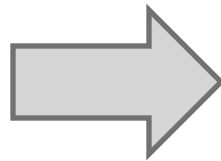
Approved by the Groton Board of Selectmen

June 2, 2014



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- Trail Events
- Trail Guide
- Regional & Community Trail Visions
- Healthy Heart Trails



Connecting Communities – Along Our Trails

Healthy Heart trails will be identified by a green heart symbol (DCR), will measure approximately 1.5 miles or less in length, and are easy to moderate in activity level.

- Doctors offices (Cardiac)
- MRPC Website
- Senior Centers
- ?? (suggestions needed)



Connecting Communities – Along Our Trails

Future Goals

- Regional Trail Vision
- Identify & establish regional trail connections
- Network with related groups
 - Healthcare
 - Neighborhood/Community
 - Education (Safe Routes to School)
- Continue to promote & educate



Connecting Communities –
Along Our Trails

Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition (MRTC)

1st Tuesday of the month

Join us!

Sheri Bean

978-345-7376 x315

Sbean@mrpc.org